

ONLINE PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES NETWORK
CDIE Summer Seminar Presentation
Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Opening Remarks by Stephen Brent of PPC/DEI
Introduction of OPIN by Steven Gale of PPC/CDIE
OPIN Demo by Christine Nagle of PPC/CDIE/DEC

Panel Discussion and Q & A:

Perspectives on Agency Performance Reporting (Janet Kerley, AFR/SD)
Budget and Reporting Issues (Robbin Boyer, PPC/SPP)
Links Between OPIN and Existing Monitoring Systems (OPIN Owners and Team)
Inter-Agency Coordination (Diane Ray, USAID DIS)
Future Planning (Judith Light, PPC/CDIE)

BACKGROUND:

- **PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE TRACKING** – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has developed a web-based system, the Online Presidential Initiative Network (OPIN), which currently tracks the progress of 14 Presidential Initiatives for sustainable development.
- **OPIN WEBSITE** – In one single location, the OPIN website (www.dec.org/partners/opin) contains a detailed list of the Presidential Initiatives for sustainable development, lists and maps of the countries affected by the initiatives, and select indicators and definitions used to measure progress. This information is public.
- **OPIN DATA** – OPIN currently collects quarterly budget and performance data through a password protected system. The Administrator of USAID, State Department, and NSC are current OPIN users.
- **LAUNCH DATE** – OPIN was introduced online on March 31, 2003.

NEXT STEPS:

- **LINKING** – Efforts are underway to provide links to OPIN from the USAID external website.
- **FIELD BASED “SUCCESS STORIES”** – USAID is working to expand the range of success stories sought to include partnerships and alliances.
- **USG OUTREACH** – We are encouraging other U.S. government agencies, such as HHS, EPA, and ENERGY, who share implementation responsibilities for some Presidential Initiatives, to consider using OPIN to share their data.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Seminar Notes

Steven Gail:

Right now, it is a challenge to find the OPIN system as it hasn't been linked to USAID's website.

The History of OPIN. OPIN was started 6 months ago at the realization of many existing presidential initiatives. The website was built for the purpose of collecting data. The Middle East Partnership has also added to the system. Now, a complete listing of presidential initiatives exists.

There are 2 existing facets of OPIN:

1. It is a place to find information on the latest presidential initiatives, active and planned along with the president's statement, and a short synopsis of the initiative.
2. It lists all indicators used to collect data on the initiatives and a map to see the data inputs (\$) and outputs.

Problems of OPIN:

1. There is pressure to promise more than it can deliver.
2. Initially there were a small set of indicators, pressure exists to add more.
3. Budget figures must be right.

Currently, there are 200 responders to OPIN. OPIN is set up for ongoing activities, in the future the past will be tracked as well;

It's convenient to attach success stories into the system.

Chris Nagle:

System Demo. Information is available to the public. A drop down menu lists specific areas of public interest. Indicator lists include: Input, Output, Results/Impact. By each indicator a help button exists with definitions of each indicator to ensure the quality of the data and understanding.

The Contacts Page lists the Initiative Owner and the Technical Contact

If you are an owner and data provider you have been provided a password. When you logon with this password you will be asked about your initiative and country.

Success Stories:

When USAID does the OPED report, they will be seeking success stories in OPIN. This link to specific presidential initiative will make things clearer

The Global Development Alliance is not reflected in the current OPIN. This will be revised in the future.

Future Plans include providing a report that is available to the General Public.

OPIN's purpose is to collect data to run varied reports. The information here is to be used, not collect dust on the shelf. Current compliance is 50 – 60 %. It is important that the development community communicate.

This quarter is a pilot test; the next quarter (July) will be report worthy.

Janet Kerley: Africa Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist.

Observations of OPIN: OPIN highlighted a need for centralized data and provides an ability to look across a portfolio and understand how \$ is being used.

As a decentralized agency, power and authority is given to the missions. Janet is working with several different initiatives all of which need to be reported on.

Two realities exist in the development world: 1. work in the field and 2. The D.C. reality which allows for the field work.

Robbin Boyer of CDIE

Traditionally we haven't done well on reporting. The integrity of the data is very important for the OPIN system. Potential budget problems will exist due to FY 2002 funds vs. FY 2003 funds. Note that obligated funds are reported, not actual expenditures.

Diane Ray of the DIS effort:

An example of other agencies tracked includes the CDC, Freedom Corps- Volunteers for Prosperity, etc. These other agencies are involved so we can get a full picture of initiatives and involvement. The system is web based for this reason but primarily for field.

Other NGO's, UNESCO, etc. are building similar tracking systems. OPIN is attempting to network with them. OPIN is open to suggestions and willing to do demos!

The future is a movement toward USAID ownership, more of US GOVT effort. An open owners meeting is planned for next week.

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